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Finland: The Finnish Communist Party (FCP) is concerned over the "Brezhnev Doctrine" and is attempting to clarify its implications for the party and the nation.

The party secretariat met in early December to discuss the doctrine that the Soviet Union has the right to intervene in "fraternal socialist countries" when developments there threaten the survival of a socialist regime. FCP leaders believe that this doctrine conflicts with earlier statements made by Brezhnev that every party has the right to determine its own road to socialism and national self-development. In trying to square these two positions, the FCP concluded that independent ideological development would continue to be tolerated as long as it does not affect the military and political interests of the USSR.

A majority of the secretariat was critical of the Brezhnev doctrine but conceded that it must be considered a new fact of life in Europe. The secretariat is inclined to believe that the doctrine is limited in its application to the socialist countries of Eastern Europe. It did not, however, rule out arbitrary Soviet interpretations which would make it applicable to Finland or the FCP. Some members of the secretariat felt that any forceful Soviet intervention in Finland would pose a real and imminent political and military threat to Western Europe.

The secretariat, apprehensive over the vagueness of the doctrine and particularly concerned over any possibility of Soviet intervention in FCP efforts to liberalize, has refrained from taking any public position on it. Instead, it has decided to wait until the next world conference of Communist parties, to be held in Moscow next May, at which time it believes the doctrine will come up for discussion and clarification.

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